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CITY OF WELLS.
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1954.

To: The Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1954.

GENERAL

The Area of the City is 1301.150 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the midyear resident population of Wells in 1954 was 6,030 (6,002)

The number of inhabited houses in the City at the end of 1954 was 1,899 (1,844)

The rateable value at the end of 1954 was £49,645 (£49,039)

The sum represented by the penny rate at the end of 1954 was estimated at £199. 0s. 0d. (£195.10s.0d.)

BIRTH RATE.

The total live births in the City in 1954 was 63 (80) as follows:-

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|----------------|------------------|
| Legitimate | 61 {75} | Males: 40 {42} | Females: 21 {33} |
| Illegitimate | 2 {5} | Males: 1 {4} | Females: 1 {1} |

Still Births: There were 2 still births during 1954 (both legitimate)

The birth rate per thousand of the population was 10.5 (13.3)

DEATH RATE.

There were 120 deaths in the City from all causes during 1954. 70 (67) Males and 50 (53) Females.

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes.

There were 28 (16) deaths from Cancer and 18 (17) from Heart Diseases.

The deathrate per thousand of the population was 19.9 (20.0)

N.B. Figures in brackets are corresponding figures for 1953.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were no deaths in this group in 1954.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Borough has been free from serious epidemic diseases during the year. Notifications were:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Measles | Nil |
| Whooping Cough | 74 |
| Scarlet Fever | Nil |
| Erysipelis | Nil |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 |
| Paratyphoid (B) | 1 |

There were no deaths from diseases in this group.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the beginning of the year the number of cases on my register was 39 as follows:-

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Pulmonary | 20 | 15 |
| Non Pulmonary | 1 | 3 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total | 21 | 18 |

During the year 7 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, 3 males and 4 females.

During the year 2 cases were removed from my register, 1 male and 1 female.

So that the end of the year the number of cases on my register was 44 as follows:-

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Pulmonary | 22 | 18 |
| Non Pulmonary | 1 | 3 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total | 23 | 21 |

WATER SUPPLY

During the year chlorination has been continued at the Spring head and Deep Well. A wholesome and sufficient supply has been available throughout the year.

An additional Borehole has been sunk on the Athletic Ground site with an anticipated yield of 5,000 gallons per hour. This additional supply should be adequate for all purposes and during normal dry periods.

During dry periods and whenever there is continuous use of the borehole a slightly unpleasant taste is noticeable due to the presence of tar acids. Regular samples of water are taken, but the quantity of tar acids in the water is now below detection by the laboratories, and this suggests that there is a steady annual decrease in this contamination.

Water main extensions have been carried out involving a total of 370 yds of new mains at the Fir Tor and Stoberry Park Housing sites.

Results of samples of water taken for analysis were as follows:-

| <u>Raw Water.</u> | | | | <u>After Treatment.</u> | | | |
|------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| <u>Bacteriological</u> | | <u>Chemical.</u> | | <u>Bacteriological</u> | | <u>Chemical.</u> | |
| Sat. | unsat. | Sat. | unsat. | Sat. | unsat. | Sat. | unsat. |
| Nil | Nil | 2 | Nil | 8 | 1 | Nil | Nil |

SWIMMING BATHS.

Samples of water from the Swimming Baths are taken during the season. The samples are taken from both the shallow or inlet end and from the deep or outlet end of the baths. Four samples were taken throughout the season and all were satisfactory.

The Bath is served with a continuous pressure sand filter and a chlorination plant. The turnover of the water in the baths takes place every 4 hours.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The consultant Engineers of the Council have completed the scheme for the reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works, and are ready for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

A weekly combined refuse and salvage collection is carried out in the City.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on the sites adjacent to the Sewage Disposal Works.

HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED.

| | Houses erected during the year. | Houses in course of erection. | Conversion to flats or dwellings. | Temporary. |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Local Authority | 33 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Private Enterprise | 21 | 20 | Nil | Nil |
| | 54 | 20 | Nil | Nil |

Total Number of post war houses completed.

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|
| (a) | By Local Authority | 257 |
| (b) | Private Enterprise | 55 |
| | Total | 312 |

TYPES OF NEW HOUSES.

| Erected by | Type | No. | Av. rent excl. of rates | Subsidy per year. | Period of Subsidy. |
|-------------------------|------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Local Authority.</u> | | | | | |
| | 3 Bedroom. | 26 | 18/- | L.A. £8.18 Govt. £26.14. | 60 yrs. |
| | 2 Bedroom. | 7 | 15/9 | ditto | ditto |

Private Enterprise.


| | | |
|-----------|-----------|----|
| Houses | 3 Bedroom | 11 |
| Bungalows | 3 Bedroom | 3 |
| " | 2 Bedroom | 7 |

HOUSING PROGRAMME.

New houses proposed to be erected by Local Authority.

(a) 1955 12 Flats. (b) 1956 30

The Council has completed the Housing Scheme at Balch Road Housing Estate for 148 houses. An additional 12 flats have now been approved on this estate and will be commenced in 1955. A housing site at Wookey Hole Road sufficient for 30 houses has been approved by the Council and development will commence in 1955.



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HOUSING APPLICATIONS

The total number of applications for tenancy of a Council House at the end of the year was 223 compared with 246 for 1953.

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Number of applications received | 6 |
| Number of applications approved | 3 |

The average approved cost per dwelling was £280.0s.0d and the average rental fixed was £97. 13s.4d.

OVERCROWDING.

The overcrowding situation in the City is not serious but there are isolated cases which receive attention as alternative accommodation becomes available.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

During the year a start was made on the Survey of the district as required by the Minister under the Housing Act 1954. The survey is to be completed by August 31st 1955.

| | | | |
|------|--------|--|-----|
| (I) | 1. (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 327 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 463 |
| | 2. (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation regulations 1925 and 1932. | 84 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 201 |
| | (c) | Number of houses in which no action was found necessary | 53 |
| | 3. (a) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 33 |
| | 4. (a) | Number of dwelling houses (excl. of those referred to under preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 147 |
| (II) | 1. (a) | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit for human habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officer | 96 |
| | (b) | Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action | 3 |
| | (c) | Number of houses demolished under existing Clearance Orders | Nil |

HOUSING INSPECTIONS contd.

(III) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Proceedings under section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936. | Nil |
| Proceedings under the Public Health Acts | Nil |
| Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act 1936 | Nil |

MILK SUPPLIES.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Total number of Registered Dairy Farms | 7 |
| (b) | Total number of Retailers | 5 |
| (c) | Number of Producer/Retailers includ.in (b) | 1 |
| (d) | Number of licensed pasteurisation plants | 1 |
| (e) | Number of heat-treatment plants not includ.in (a) | Nil |
| (f) | Number of Supplementary Licences issued to dealers or distributors | " |

MILK SAMPLING.

| Designation | Samples Taken | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory. |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | 16 | 15 | 1 |
| Accredited | - | - | - |
| Pasteurised | 20 | 20 | - |
| Sterilised | - | - | - |
| Undesignated | - | - | - |
| Totals | 36 | 35 | 1 |

Biological Sampling.

Three samples were taken for biological sampling showed negative results.

ICE CREAM.

Number of Premises Registered:-

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| (a) | For Manufacture only | Nil |
| (b) | For Retail only | 29 |
| (c) | For Manufacture and Retail | 4 |

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 60, the results were as follows:-

| | <u>Hot Mix.</u> | <u>Cold Mix.</u> |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Grade I. | 44 | 5 |
| Grade II. | 7 | - |
| Grade III. | - | - |
| Grade IV. | 4 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 55 | 5 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

MEAT SUPERVISION.

During the year 2 applications were received for the licensing of existing private slaughterhouses. One of these was refused on the grounds that the slaughterhouse was in too close proximity to dwellinghouses and could not be suitable for the purpose. On appeal by the applicant this decision was reversed in his favour by the Magistrates.

The slaughterhouse will come into operation during 1955 subject to the premises being put into good repair.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses in District | Nil |
| (b) | Number of Registered Slaughterhouses in District | Nil |

KNACKERS YARD.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Number registered in District | Nil |
|-------------------------------|-----|

RIVER POLLUTION.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of cases dealt with during the year | Nil |
|--|-----|

Alan W. Woolley M.B. Ch.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

H.C.Birch. M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.
Sanitary Inspector.

